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I'm proud of our work in the 111th Congress passing historic legislation to address critical challenges facing our nation. Yet I remain equally committed to my work to mandate greater fiscal responsibility and government accountability.

[... Click here or the images below to read my entire June 2010 newsletter.](#)

Update from Congresswoman Melissa Bean

FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Dear Friend,

When my husband and I dropped our daughter off at college last semester, she suggested we park far away because she was embarrassed to be seen in my 10-year-old minivan. We reminded her that without family sacrifices, we could not afford to help with her college tuition costs. We told her we would be happy to go shopping for a new car if she thought that was more important than her college education. Since then, she has often proclaimed how much she “loves that old minivan.”

Separating the ‘gotta haves’ from the ‘nice to haves’ is an important part of budgeting. As we end an era of excessive consumption and borrowing, our families, businesses, and government must learn to better prioritize, invest, sacrifice, and save.

I’m proud of our work in the 111th Congress passing historic legislation to address critical challenges facing our nation. Yet I remain equally committed to my work to mandate greater fiscal responsibility and government accountability.

To ensure effective use of taxpayer dollars, I’ve introduced legislation to give the president the authority to cut wasteful spending items from Congressional bills and improve the audit process for government agencies and grants.

Enclosed, I’ve listed other related legislation I’ve authored, amended, or advocated for, along with votes I’ve taken against spending that was wasteful, unnecessary, funded with excessive or unsustainable cost increases, or was unlikely to achieve stated objectives.

Fiscal discipline is as important in the “People’s House” – for all of our children – as it is for my own house and kids, and it remains a top priority. Since I came to Congress, I’ve advocated for statutory pay-as-you-go budget rules. Congress got it half right when pay-go was adopted by the House but not the Senate. This year Congress passed, and the president signed into law, H.J.R. 45, which forces Congress to constrain mandatory spending to budgetary limits, so additional spending is paid for today, not borrowed from future generations.

That’s good news for our nation’s long term fiscal health, but requires us to make hard choices and deliver the bad news to many worthy programs seeking funding increases that we cannot afford. As noted inside, I support legislation that requires Congress to consider our national priorities and make those choices with up or down votes.

Families, businesses, and government continue to find ways to do more with less as we work together towards economic recovery. Through responsible stewardship of limited resources and continued private sector growth, we will strengthen our nation’s financial foundation and economic prosperity.

As always, it’s an honor to serve you.

Sincerely,



Congresswoman Melissa Bean



Promoting **FISCAL DISCIPLINE** and **GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY**

- Cosponsored and helped House colleagues pass a tough, statutory pay-as-you-go law. It requires Congress to constrain mandatory spending to budgetary limits, so additional spending is paid for today, not borrowed from future generations. A long-time champion of the provision, Congresswoman Bean originally co-sponsored it as H.R. 2920; it became law as part of H.J. Res. 45.
- Co-sponsored and introduced the Reduce Unnecessary Spending Act (H.R. 5454), which would authorize the Administration to reduce wasteful Congressional spending with specific spending cuts. Congress would then be required to take a vote on those cuts, without amendment, preventing Representatives from protecting individual requests.
- Wrote the Government Audit Reform (GAR) Act (H.R. 5018) to strengthen the rules for government audits of federal grant money. Official reviews of current audits show that more than half of them are conducted so inadequately that they are considered partially or completely unreliable.
- Co-introduced the SAFE Commission Act (H.R. 1557) to require Congress to make the hard choices and cast the tough votes necessary to contain unsustainable spending commitments, in alignment with the President's recent creation of the bipartisan National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform.
- Cosponsored H.Res.40, a provision that strengthens audit rules on every government agency, requiring regular hearings to identify ineffective and wasteful spending in government.
- Wrote the Voting Record Transparency Resolution (H.Res. 287), which changed House rules to require the Clerk to post all representatives full voting records on the publicly-funded official website. The House administration has since made limited records available for optional posting, but Bean is pushing for full compliance.
- Wrote H. Res. 965, which would require a up-or-down vote on raising the federal government's maximum level of debt, "debt ceiling."

ACROSS THE BOARD CUTS TO SPENDING BILLS

BILL/AMENDMENT #	YEAR – ROLL CALL #	COST	SUMMARY
Amdmt. to H.R. 2847	2009 - 367	\$3.22 billion	5% reduction in Commerce, Justice, Science, Appropriations Act.
Amdmt. to H.R. 2996	2009 - 468	\$5.75 billion	Reduces overall spending in Interior Appropriations Act to FY2008 levels.
Amdmt. to H.R. 2997	2009 - 502	\$1.145 billion	5% reduction in Agriculture Appropriations Act
Amdmt. to H.R. 3183	2009 - 580	\$1.7 billion	5% reduction in Energy Appropriations Act.
Amdmt. to H.R. 3288	2009 - 623	\$6.2 billion	5% reduction in Transportation- HUD Appropriations Act.
Amdmt. to H.R. 3293	2009 - 644	\$803 million	Cuts total spending from Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Act.

VOTES AGAINST BILLS THAT INCLUDED WORTHY PROGRAMS BUT WERE FUNDED WITH EXCESSIVE COST INCREASES OR WERE UNLIKELY TO ACHIEVE THEIR STATED OBJECTIVES AS WRITTEN.

BILL #	YEAR – ROLL CALL #	COST	SUMMARY
H.R. 1105	2009 - 86	\$410 billion	The Omnibus Appropriations Act of 2009
H.R. 2818	2009 - 413	\$3.7 billion	Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2010
H.R. 2997	2009 - 510	\$123.8 billion	Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act
H.R. 3631	2009 - 737	\$2.8 billion	Medicare Premium Fairness Act
H.R. 2997	2009 - 761	\$121.2 billion	Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act
H.R. 2847	2009 - 991	\$154 billion	The Jobs for Main Street Act
H.R. 2847	2010 - 90	\$17.6 billion	The Hiring Incentives to Restore Employment Act
H.R. 3509	2010 - 134	\$37.5 million	The Agricultural Credit Act of 2009

Here are some of the **SIGNIFICANT SPENDING CUTS** that I've supported this Congress

CUTS TO EARMARKS AND SPECIFIC PROGRAMS

BILL/AMENDMENT #	YEAR – ROLL CALL #	COST	SUMMARY
Amdmt. #79 to H.R. 2847	2009 – 373	\$300,000	Art Center of the Grand Prairie in Stuttgart, Arkansas
Amdmt. #105 to H.R. 2847	2009 – 375	\$180,000	San Jose State University weather forecasters program
Amdmt. #85 to H.R. 2847	2009 – 380	\$1 million	Drew University Environmental Science Initiative in Madison, New Jersey, and decrease the appropriations for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Amdmt. #84 to H.R. 2847	2009 – 382	\$325,000	Nicholls State University's Institute for Seafood Studies
Amdmt. to H.R. 2847	2009 – 388	\$500,000	Grants for Western Pacific Fishery Demonstration Projects.
Amdmt. to H.R. 2996	2009 – 471	\$150,000	Traditional Arts in Upstate New York
Amdmt. to H.R. 2996	2009 – 472	\$150,000	Tarrytown Music Hall Restoration
Amdmt. to H.R. 2996	2009 – 473	\$150,000	Angel Island State Park Immigration Station Hospital Rehabilitation project.
Amdmt. to H.R. 2996	2009 – 474	\$150,000	Historic Fort Payne Coal and Iron Building Rehabilitation
Amdmt. to H.R. 3081	2009 – 518	\$76.56 million	Reducing funding for the Peace Corps to the level requested by the President
Amdmt. to H.R. 3170	2009 – 556	\$50 million	Reduce funding for grants to states under the Help America Vote Act to the level requested by President.
Amdmt. to H.R. 3170	2009 – 560	\$200,000	Commercial Driver Training Institute of Arkansas State University
Amdmt. #13 to HR 3170	2009 – 565	\$90,000	Commercial Kitchen Business Incubator project of the El Pajaro Community Development Corporation in Watsonville, California
Amdmt. #14 to 3170	2009 – 566	\$125,000	Defense Procurement Assistance Program of the Economic Growth Connection of Westmoreland in Greensburg, Pennsylvania
Amdmt. to H.R. 3170	2009 – 567	\$100,000	Myrtle Beach International Trade and Conference Center
Amdmt. #1 to H.R. 3183	2009 – 582	\$1.5 million	Maret Center
Amdmt. #3 to H.R. 3183	2009 – 583	\$1 million	Consortium for Plant Biotechnology Research
Amdmt. #4 to H.R. 3183	2009 – 584	\$500,000	Ethanol from Agriculture
Amdmt. #5 to H.R. 3183	2009 – 585	\$2 million	Fort Mason Center Pier 2 Project
Amdmt. #10 to H.R. 3183	2009 – 586	\$300,000	Whitworth University Stem Equipment
Amdmt. #11 to H.R. 3183	2009 – 587	\$1.6 million	The Boston Architectural College's Urban Sustainable Initiative
Amdmt. #1 to H.R. 3288	2009 – 627	\$500,000	Terminal Replacement project at Grand Forks International Airport
Amdmt. #4 to H.R. 3288	2009 – 628	\$250,000	Terminal Replacement project at Grand Forks International Airport
Amdmt. #7 to H.R. 3288	2009 – 629	\$250,000	Triangle Building in New York, New York
Amdmt. #8 to H.R. 3288	2009 – 630	\$400,000	Renovation of a vacant building for economic development by the City of Jal, New Mexico
Amdmt. #9 to H.R. 3288	2009 – 631	\$250,000	Monroe County Farmer's Market facility construction
H.R. 3254	2010 – 12	\$139 million	Taos Pueblo Indian Water Rights Settlement Act
H.R. 3342	2010 – 13	\$199 million	Aamodt Litigation Settlement Act
H.R. 1065	2010 – 14	\$259 million	White Mountain Apache Tribe Water Rights Quantification Act of 2009



Congresswoman Bean answers questions from small business owners from across the Eighth District.

